

Opening Statement  
The Honorable Frank D. Lucas, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research

Hearing to review the Buena Vista Virginia Watershed Project

Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001  
10:00 a.m.  
1300 Longworth House Office Building

The Small Watershed Programs authorized by P.L. 83-566 require that proposed watershed projects with an estimated Federal contribution to construction costs in excess of \$5,000,000 and no single structure exceeding 4,000 acre feet of total capacity be reviewed and approved by this Committee.

The Buena Vista Watershed project is located in Rockbridge County, Virginia. The City of Buena Vista and the Natural Bridge Soil and Water Conservation District have been working with USDA over the past several years to make sure that the project is sound and feasible.

Today, we look forward to hearing from USDA representatives and representatives from Buena Vista. We hope that their testimony will concretely show the need for this project and the common good that will result upon the project's completion.

We look forward to hearing today's witnesses.